

SARAH MCLENDON'S WASHINGTON REPORT

3133 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 215 - Tel: 202-483-3791

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- No. 1- DID REAGAN-BUSH COMMIT TREASON IN IRAN?
- NO. 2- ARMS IN SOMALIA CAME FROM US
- NO. 3- REPUBLICANS CONVEY SAINTHOOD ON JOHN TOWER
- No. 4- BARBARA BUSH'S LAST WHITE HOUSE CHRISTMAS

NO. 1. BARBARA HONEGGER, the courageous California staffer under Ronald Reagan's era who discovered the plan by Reagan-Bush to take billions of cash and arms from the U.S. arsenal without authority and give it to the Iranian government to keep 52 U.S. hostages from being delivered by President Carter. The whole idea was to help Candidates Reagan and Bush to get elected. It worked. But the point is Reagan-Bush had no authority to do this when they were not yet in authority. This whole escapade was called "October Surprise"

It involved not only cash and weapons but the presidency itself which was captured by the Reagan-Bush people with their Carter-hating military campaign volunteers who did not like the fact Carter was cutting back the military.

Honegger who gave out the first information on this to the press and who wrote the first book called "Ocotober Surprise" is back in Washington with more information about the participation of Reagan-Bush and their attempts at cover-up. The kernel of her output is that Reagan-Bush committed treason. Many people did not know it but Iran had in taking U.S. hostages also declared war on the U.S. That meant that Reagan-Bush were dealing with the enemy. This, she points out, is treasonable and is also actually grounds for execution. She and others do not expect that there will be a prosecution or an execution. But she does think the truth should be known. She said so openly at a press conference here.

She acts in the nick of time as the House Task Force investigating October Surprise is about to come out with another whitewash just as the Senate Foreign Relations sub-committee did under the ill Sen. Terry Sanford.

Honegger had the nerve to expose the Sanford inquiry as being inadequate. Of course it had been denied adequate funding and the power to subpoena witnesses by the energetic activity of Sen. Jesse Helms, R., N.C. and other republicans in the Senate as well as some Democrats.

Honegger's exposure comes just before the House Task Force Investigating October Surprise is coming out with its report on Dec. 31 which is expected to be another whitewash, just as Bush's denial that he went to Paris to complete the deal with the Iranians to give arms and money for hostages. Honegger points out in order for the Reagan-Bush action not to have been treasonable it would have been necessary for Reagan, once in office, to make a presidential finding approving their action but she points out that none such can be found.

Honegger exposes the flaws in the Secret Service logs of the time when Bush was supposed to be in Paris with the late Bill

Casey, head of the Reagan-Bush campaign and later the Central Intelligence Agency.

Honegger showed that pilot Richard Brennecke was actually in Paris at the time he was alleged to have signed credit cards in Seattle. This questioned his veracity. Honegger said she has proven that the credit card signatures were forgeries. Honegger said that Arie Ben-Menasch was accurate when he wrote in his book, "Profits of War" that Bush attended the meeting in Paris at the request of the top leaders of Iran to cinch the deal to hold the hostages longer and until after the election in return for cash and weapons from the U.S. to help them in their war with Iraq. Honegger presented proof that logs of the Secret Service, written days after the activities described, were apparently in error when they established Bush in three places in Washington at the same time he was supposed to be in Paris.

Honegger took her new proof sheets to give a deposition before the House Task Force headed by Rep. Lee Hamilton, D., Ind. the friend of Vice President Dan Quayle and certain Bush friends among the Contras. Up till now the committee had voiced no interest in calling Barbara. She was heard by the Democratic and Republican counsel for the Task Force, from 4 p.m. for at least five hours.

The mystery about all this is why the successful coverup by the Bush administration, joined in by the Democrats in Congress as well as the Republicans, by the nation's press. Very few of them displayed any interest. There was only one reporter beside this one at the Honegger press conference and that was Reuters International, a British agency now serving many papers in this country. Hundreds of other reporters had been notified of the press conference.

If someone offers the comment that this happened so long ago the American people are no longer interested, and it cannot be proven, Hogwash. The American people would be interested if they get sufficient information to make them realize that this was not only making foreign policy by persons who were non-presidential material when a sitting president was in the White House, but also that it was unfair to the hostages whom Iran had been ready to release for six months. It was also questionable foreign policy. Where and how did the money spent with Iran come from? It was given in the name of the U.S. as were the U.S. weapons taken illegally out of the storage. How and why do such things happen in the U.S.? Who is making these things happen just as who is forcing the Congressmen of both parties to encourage them to cover all this?

No. 2. "U.S. War Lords Fed Somalia's Misery," is the headline over the Washington Post column by the highly regarded journalist, Colman McCarthy, on Dec. 15, 1992. He says earlier attempts by the Quakers to tell this to the American public through the media were unsuccessful, with few exceptions.

Now the U.S. State Department, not the Department of Defense, announces that the U.S. will send 38,000 military personnel there to help protect food for the hungry which is being stolen daily by armed bandits, careless with guns.

McCarthy says "Bush and the generals he has dispatched to blow away the street gangs of Somalia ought to be held accountable for both the military policies and the indifference to the world's hungry..." He adds that "from the early 1980's to mid 1990, \$403 million in U.S. military aid was sent to Somalia." The U.S. spent the 1980's arming Somalia and now in the 1990's it sends in the Marines to disarm it.

Then McCarthy in a wonderful observation expresses much of our troubles today in this sentence. "Yesterday's mission of death is today's mission of mercy. Gen. Colin, Powell, (chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff) utters the customary military blather this this is "an army of peace out to create a secure environment.'" Adds McCarthy, "If that's the goal, why is no one in the Senate or House leadership calling for an arms embargo on the 11,142 government weapons. To how many of those countries will U.S. soldiers be sent to risk death from our own guns." He also adds that Somalia has capable citizens of her own able to organize a peace effort.

No. 3. The late Sen. John Tower is being elevated to sainthood by the expression that the same type of litmus test applied to the confirmation of Tower to be Secretary of Defense should be applied to the cabinet nominees of President-elect Bill Clinton. The top republicans deny that they invented this concept. They say they got it from the press questioning. Wherever it started, it gives the impression that Tower was rated unfairly and sacrificed. Not true. Tower got what he deserved and in my opinion persons were right, who conveyed what they knew to be true about Sen. Tower's womanizing to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to the Senate Armed Services committee staff and members headed by Sen. Sam Nunn, D., Ga.

To become Secretary of Defense was the goal of Tower's life but he should have thought of that a long time ago when he started coming on to women not his wife, of many types and in many positions. This was verified by former staff members, by associates and especially representatives of other countries who observed this when he was posted in Geneva on international negotiations. Excessive drinking was another Tower sin. There is much sympathy for Tower now that he has been killed in an airplane crash, one that looks mightily like it was arranged. This office gets mail on the subject as Tower's friends swear that he was tied along the coverup in the Bush administration about the alliance with Iran and the Contras in the Iran-Congra illegal war. They say that he was about to disclose what he knew about the involvement of both President Reagan and Bush when his plane went down. No one can prove this. There is evidence that a notebook of his was missing. There is also evidence that blades of the airplane, a foreign manufactured one, were at fault. While television blares every five minutes that Tower was treated unfairly in confirmation, this simply is not true. The Republican leaders say they first heard it from the press. Both Republican leader Bob Dole, who heads Republicans in the Senate and another leader, Sen. Alan Simpson of Wyoming say they did not start this concept. They do feel

that there should be rigid, thorough questioning. And they also point out that the Democrats were in charge under the Tower period and that some Democrats voted for two questionable confirmations, Clarence Thomas for the Supreme Court and Bob Gates to be head of the CIA.

Senator Dole, usually noted for his cryptic remarks, said this time that the Republicans have not organized any "hit squads." "I agree with President-elect Clinton's statements today that the process should be 'thorough' and 'rigorous' and 'fair'. The American people expect nothing less and neither does the president-elect."

No. 4. Barbara Bush was asked if she was sad to be leaving the White House. At the time she was touring the White House with reporters to show them the Christmas decorations. she replied: "I never waste any time worrying about things that you can't do anything about." Mrs. Bush actually looked happy and relaxed, with Millie, of course, at her feet. She said "all the children are coming for Christmas, that is 24, no, 24 and a half.... She said the President's spirits never were down about losing the election but that "he was not happy he could not finish the job he set out to do. He is a resilient man." She said she had read that the President was despondent but that he never was. Then she added, "We are having a good transition." She said the Christmas tree was "the most stunning we have ever had" and the President thinks the decorations are ravishing." She has kept a diary and will write a book "some day but I have not really put my mind to it yet."

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